

The monthly magazine  
of Toc H  
7p June 1972



# POINT THREE





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June 1972

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
- 2 To give personal service
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

## On the cover:

Beauty in the midst of poverty. This child, whose face seems to embody all those clichés about the age old wisdom of the East, is fed at a canteen in Calcutta run by Brothers to All Men. An article on this comparatively new organisation begins on page 102.

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# VIEWPOINT

## Looking into the future

I don't claim to be much of an expert at the art of crystal gazing. Nonetheless, if we are to plan effectively we need to be able to look into the future. We need to find some way of assessing the likely shape of the Movement in five or ten years' time. The decisions taken in the next few months on the spending of the additional income which has become available will affect the way in which Toc H develops for many years to come. In order that these decisions may strengthen the tides of the Spirit which are already flowing we must try and see what the Spirit is saying to us, difficult as that may be. In an attempt to assist in this process I propose setting down what seem to me to be some of the relevant facts.

I shall start with the discouragement, in hopes that we can disown it later on. Last year's Annual Report showed that 67 branches had closed during the previous two years. There are parts of the country where Toc H has completely ceased to exist, and reports of the closure of units continue to come in with depressing regularity.

A report by a group of young members which was summarised in *Point Three* in June last year pointed out the dangers of stagnation within a branch. Unless there is a regular influx of new people (whether as members or as helpers on specific jobs) the branch ceases to offer its members new learning experiences. The members know each other too well and the mixture loses its creative power. When that happens the branch has effectively died, whether it hands in its Lamp or not.

The closure of the 67 branches is part of the current picture, and we dare not ignore it. It is, however, only a part. The news pages of *Point Three* month by month present branches and Districts which are undertaking imaginative and demanding work and are attracting large numbers of people who are prepared to help. There are plenty of places where Toc H is a focus for community effort.

And in the past ten years quite new patterns of work have been developed, whose full potential is only now becoming clear. In several inner city areas Toc H has started to enable local residents to define their problems and to meet them. Such work brings no immediate results but already a few Toc H groups have come into being. The programme of work projects attracts a steadily growing number of young people every year. The numbers who have become members of Toc H have so far been disappointing but there are signs that this is changing, and some of those who have joined have accepted positions of leadership and responsibility within the Movement. These experiments cannot be ignored in any consideration of what the Spirit is saying to us.

I wonder whether we ought now to be seeking to develop, in some places at least, more flexible patterns of membership. Back in April 1970 the Surrey, S & W London Area adopted a five year plan, which was published in *Point Three* in June of that year. It contained this sentence: 'We may also have to get used to the idea of having a large number of members of the Association in one District, but for them NOT to be in branches or group patterns, but rather as individuals with specific gifts'. Have any experiments along these lines taken place? Can we foresee a time when Area members will become a kind of mobile task force, taking part in a wide range of District projects? It is a possible development which ought at least to be considered.

These are just some of the ways in which the Spirit seems to be speaking to us. What they add up to I'm not sure, but clearly these are some of the factors that will have to be borne in mind as we gaze into the future and try to see how Toc H is likely to develop over the next decade. And it is that vision, partial as it must inevitably be, that should determine the decisions which we take this year.

K P-B



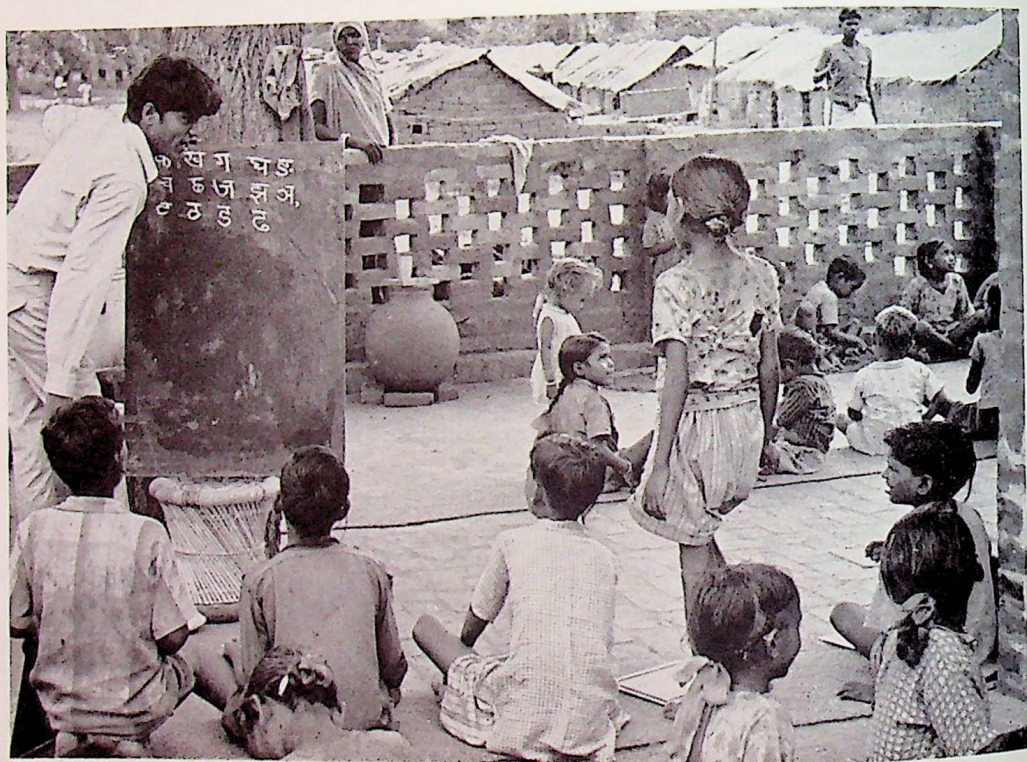
# BROTHERS TO ALL MEN

Ken Prideaux-Brune

Development work in Africa, Asia and Latin America can only succeed if it is based on respect and understanding for existing cultures. That is the fundamental belief underlying the work undertaken by Brothers to All Men, a small and comparatively new organisation devoted to helping the world's underdeveloped countries.



Before. The cracked, parched ground of the Gaya district (above). And after. The new well and irrigation system constructed with the aid of Brothers to All Men (left). Ground which once produced one sparse crop in the aftermath of the monsoon now produces three strong, healthy crops each year.





You may well feel, as I did, that there can be no real justification for yet another group in a field which seems, to an outsider, already overcrowded with competing organisations.

Brothers to All Men, however, is based on a carefully thought-out and convincing philosophy and is unique in relying entirely on volunteers to staff its projects and its tiny administrative office in London.

The volunteers are all in their 20's and include mechanics, electricians, agriculturalists, civil engineers, geologists, accountants and administrators. They work for a minimum of two years in return for their keep and pocket money. Volunteer doctors are also recruited, usually for three month periods.

Brothers to All Men originated in France, where Frères des Hommes is one of the best known organisations working for the Third World. It spread through Europe, and started in Britain in 1967. The first project run by the British branch was the feeding of primary school children in the slums of Delhi and Calcutta, schemes which have since been taken over by the city authorities.

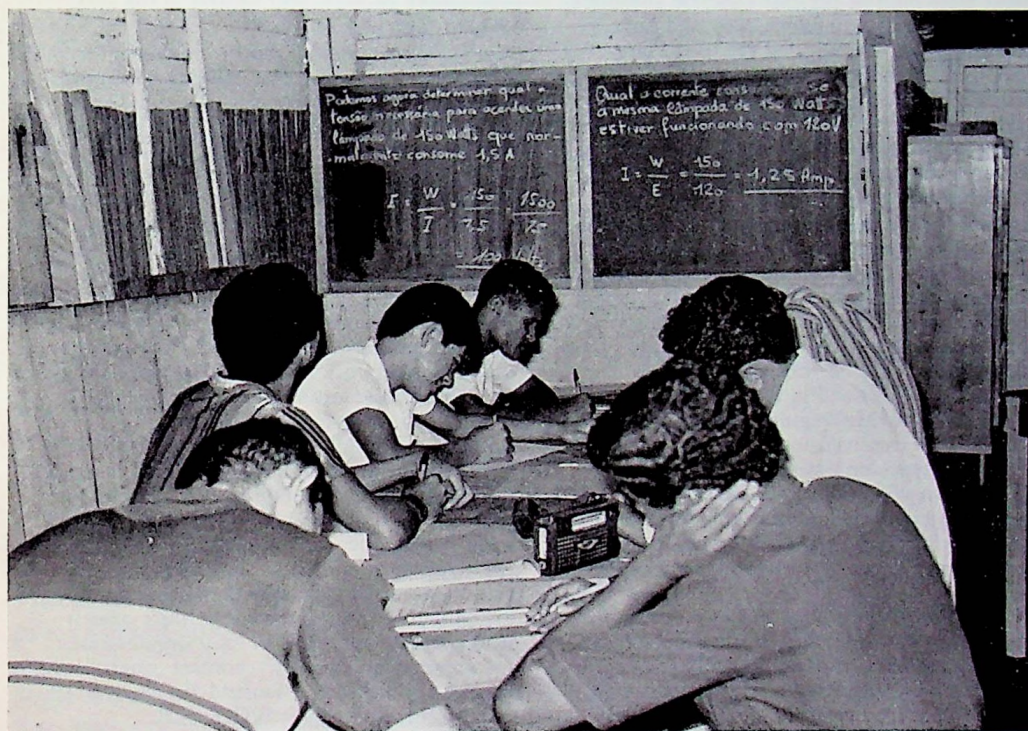
The basic approach of Brothers to All Men was defined in a recent issue of its monthly news-

**Below left: Reading class at a crèche for children of construction workers who live as well as work on the building sites of Delhi.**

letter. 'When Brothers to All Men was founded it was in the belief that true development could only be achieved in the underdeveloped countries by proving to the people what could be done, gaining their support and getting them to work together towards a better future. We had no wish to intrude upon their cultures, which in most cases were centuries older than our own European cultures. Nor did we intend to thrust upon them the highly sophisticated technical equipment of the western world, which would merely have overwhelmed them. Our method was to send a small team of volunteers to a particular area of need where they would get to know the people and their ways, then, in conjunction with the village headmen, other local organisations and government departments, get down to work at grassroots level. When a certain stage has been reached the volunteers leave the people to continue the task of development under their own leadership.'

How this approach works out in practice can perhaps best be illustrated by the Gaya Development Project in the desperately poor Bihar region of India, which has recently reached the stage at which the volunteers can be withdrawn.

**Below: Electrical instruction in the slums of Recife, Brazil.**





Bihar has a population about the size of Britain's. Illiteracy rates are the highest in India, and agricultural yields are particularly low, despite the fact that 80 per cent of the population are farmers.

The volunteers moved in to Bihar after the famine of 1967, the worst in living memory, which followed the failure of the monsoon for two years running. The monsoon rains have always been vital for the sparse crops the people were able to grow, but the terrible irony of the situation is that a great table of water exists under the ground at no great depth.

The first step, therefore, was to construct durable wells of brick and cement. Gifts of food in return for work persuaded the local people to co-operate, despite the inevitable apathy that afflicts people who have lived for generations without hope. They were thus involved from the outset in their own development, the men digging, the women carrying away the soil and rubble in baskets on their heads.

The wells were only a beginning. Irrigation canals were built of pre-cast concrete and brick. Light steel ploughs, bullock carts and bullocks were provided, and selected seeds and fertilisers were introduced. Areas which were formerly producing one sparse monsoon crop a year were soon producing three strong, healthy crops. Potatoes, onions, cauliflowers, tomatoes and radishes were grown, as well as rice, wheat and fruit.

Village councils were set up to co-ordinate the work. These councils usually occur once a fortnight and at regular intervals the whole village meets together. A central co-operative buys seed, fertilisers and equipment, and markets the surplus crops.

Education is vital. Brothers to All Men sponsors 100 boys and girls at an agricultural college and provides regular seminars. Young villagers have received instruction in teaching methods and are now running literacy classes in their own villages. Seven boys have received training in puppetry and now tour the literacy classes giving shows aimed at increasing the pupils' vocabulary and providing social education.

Thus the Gaya district has been gradually transformed and the villagers are now able to continue and expand the work of development under their own leadership. 'The volunteers set out to ensure that if the monsoon failed

again in Bihar, the people would never again experience a famine like that of 1967. But,' claims the organisation's newsletter, 'they have gone far beyond that. They have found that the methods of development used by Brothers to All Men really work. The proof can be seen in the strong, healthy crops which now grow in the Gaya district, and in the hope and enthusiasm which emanate from the people where once there was only apathy and despair.'

This is just one of the projects undertaken by Brothers to All Men. Other projects in India include the provision of crèches, and literacy and technical training programmes for children of communities which live as well as work on building sites in Delhi; running a home for the children of lepers in Calcutta; and, also in Calcutta, providing a medical clinic and a primary school in a slum area. In Upper Volta, in West Africa, volunteers run a fishing co-operative and have started a new health project. In Brazil volunteers give elementary education and courses in electrical engineering to young people in the slums of Recife, where they also run a clinic. In Peru Brothers to All Men provided homes for children orphaned by the Lima earthquake in 1970. Responsibility for these has now been accepted by the Peruvian government and the volunteers are planning a community development project in the area of Lake Titicaca.

The finance required for projects run by British volunteers is raised in this country. Last year Brothers to All Men raised £20,000. The target for this year is £40,000. The bulk of the money is raised by churches and other local organisations. Stuart Neild, the secretary to Brothers to All Men, told me with a wry smile that its income always rises in the wake of a major natural disaster. It is sad to think that our consciences are only aroused intermittently by the sudden death of thousands of people, while the continuing problems of poverty and malnutrition make little impact. The quiet, unspectacular work of community development, by which whole areas can be transformed, surely deserves as much support.

Brothers to All Men's young volunteers seem to have both dedication and humility, and that's a pretty formidable combination. If you can consider offering two years of your life to this work (young men are wanted now in India, Latin America and Upper Volta); if you can help them raise the money they need; or if you would like to take advantage of their offer to send speakers and films to local organisations anywhere in the country - contact Stuart Neild, Brothers to All Men, Manfield House, 1 Southampton Street, London WC2R 0LR.



# POETRY

Three new poems by Anasuya R Shenoy. Mrs Shenoy has had a number of poems, stories and articles published in magazines and newspapers in India. And Chris Gent, ADC to Tubby, reviews an impressive collection of poems in Yorkshire dialect.

## Bread and Freedom

Take a loaf, they said,  
And make merry.  
Throw care to the winds;  
Lament not the desecration  
And despair;  
It is a mood that will pass.  
What if a bleeding heart  
Clipped of wings,  
Dies in secret?  
Is an Ideal a God?  
What if a mind corrodes  
Getting benumbed  
Within prison-bars?  
'Liberty'—it is an empty word  
Filled with wind;  
An aimless vagabond.  
Eat thy bread,  
Work, and be content.

The way-side mules, they answered,  
Think nought but of bread alone.  
But men have birthrights;  
And for one hunger that, satiated,  
dies,  
Other hungers rise  
To make mock and cry.  
Better a begging bowl  
In an unfettered hand,  
If Freedom be the price of bread.  
And the choice  
To fashion our tomorrows,  
To make or mar,  
Than an enthroned slavery.  
So the Spirit of Man, uncrushed,  
undaunted,  
Might declare,  
'I am master even of my hunger.'

## Compassionate Eyes

Compassionate eyes  
Watch you;  
At play, with the claycars  
Of Life's irrelevancies;  
Raising signal-posts  
To stop  
Time's toy-trains  
That go thundering  
Across your hand-made tracks.

Compassionate eyes  
Watch;  
While you put up barricades  
Against yourself;  
And cry out for release  
From doomed prisons.

Compassionate eyes  
Watch;  
And wait for the hour  
When you lay aside  
Juvenile absorptions,  
The Toys, the Make-believe;  
And look up,  
Into their divine depths.

## A Drum in the Desert

I heard a heart-beat  
Walk past the circle's rim  
Hungering;  
I heard it mingle  
With a hundred other heart-beats  
Forming  
A drum  
On Life's Sahara.  
Drumming  
Rejection  
Of harvests, mud-coated  
From trodden earth;  
Waiting  
For the dew-drenched Manna  
Fallen  
From the secret depths  
Of endless heavens.

## The muse went weaving

*by Fred Brown. Published by Hub Publications, Youlgrave, Bakewell, Derbyshire, at 45p.*

Even as an Australian, the dialect didn't give me any worries. These poems are in the good old rustic tradition; the common man's expression. And in this tradition, I think that they come off best if read aloud—that's what this tradition of poetry is all about. Simple wit; directly expressed; enhanced by the dialectical richness; imagery drawn from immediate surroundings and daily life. Yet despite this basis of homespun simplicity, he's not stupid; the versification and general mechanics are very cleanly handled. So many 'moderns' who get onto the Folk bandwagon make the rustic element of the poetry an excuse for sloppy or non-existent rhythmic, sonic and versification qualities. Yet all the old folk poets could turn a good line—none of the business of, 'I'm a folk writer; therefore I can get away with hell'.

My only criticism is that 'Finger Magic', 'Segregation', 'Television Masts', 'Immigration', 'Blood Transfusion', 'Patience' and 'Care and Maintenance' aren't of the same cut as the rest—little vocal quality, an entirely more sophisticated type of image; not 'folk', just modern poems of no outstanding merit or expression.



# TALKING POINT

## A daily dose of TLC

Bob Knight

The English language has some odd omissions and confusions, and nowhere worse than in the realm of our deepest emotions. For we pride ourselves that we are not like those excitable continentals, warm blooded and hot tempered. Anglo-Saxons are a cool race, not given to showing their emotions. As a result it is hardly surprising that we cannot distinguish one from another.

Take love for example. The Greeks had more than one word for it, four at least. Parental and filial love in the family was distinguished from love between friends. Both were again distinguished from the erotic experience, and a fourth was taken up by Christians as the highest of all—agape, or as C S Lewis describes it, gift-love\*. This later was divine in origin, could motivate human beings to love the unloveable, and indeed could enrich all other loves.

But we have imposed a taboo on tenderness in most areas of life. An even stronger restraint is expected on showing our need of love. We would re-write the 13th chapter of the first letter to the Corinthians and extol faith, hope and independence. This is what is wrong with city life, though provincial communities manage to remain more civilised. In the urban situation there are so many other people. The only remedy is to show a consistent indifference to all without discrimination.

A crowded train was waiting at one of those stops where the drivers change, and a middle-aged woman picked her way to the end of a compartment where she could use an empty fold-down seat. Another passenger, noticing she had a bandaged shin leant forward and asked if she would prefer to change places. The effect of this expression of human kindness could only be described as startling. Some looked up, apparently puzzled that one of their fellow human beings actually had the power of speech. Others, more embarrassed, buried their heads deeper into their evening helping of journalism. The enquiry had to be repeated before the lady realised someone was genuinely concerned for her comfort alone.

Gerard Hoffnung's advice to tourists visiting Britain included the hint that it was customary

on entering a railway compartment to shake hands with all the other passengers. Now there's a thought. It might ensure we all gave, and received, a daily dose of T.L.C., tender loving care. That would be a change we would all welcome.

*\*The Four Loves C S Lewis: Fontana.*

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### World Chain of Light

This year's Chain will start in Edinburgh, where a 24 hour Vigil will be maintained. Branches in the UK may take part in the Chain on either Monday December 11 or Tuesday December 12.

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## Letter

### The mentally ill

Many thanks for your article on Fountain House; it is interesting to learn that the need for this was seen by the people who had been patients in a mental hospital.

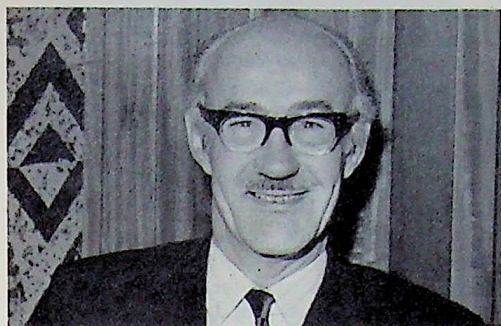
I thought you might be interested to learn that such a project is coming into being on the Isle of Wight, in this case by people of varying interests who see the necessity for such a home. Toc H is playing a part. We saw the importance of this some years ago. A young fellow named Bryan, in his middle 20s, had a mental breakdown and refused to meet people, but he was persuaded to come to our branch. As was to be expected Bryan was made welcome and although he took little part in our affairs continued to come until he was sent to hospital. After treatment he asked for some 'work' to do; we put him in touch with two old people, both in their late eighties; the husband had just had a leg amputated and the wife was a little senile, perhaps not the most promising job for someone just out of a mental home. However he went every week to see them, helped with the housework and gave the old man a bath. They were grateful and Bryan is now back at work and fully integrated into the community.

Whitmore Vale is of course equally necessary and worthy of all the support Toc H can afford it; these folk are unable to help themselves and that should be sufficient incentive for all the assistance we can give.

Ron Barnes *Morton, IOW*



## Make the words mean what they say



says Central Executive member Harry Brier

It used to be said that Toc H changed people—there appears to be more concern at present with changing words. 'Who uses which version of what' is not so important; what does matter is the sincerity and understanding with which words are used. Ceremony without understanding is like service without love—just an obligation.

Words are used to communicate, but to make communication effective there must be understanding.

When the communication cord in a train is pulled because of a crisis or emergency, it works. Why? Because someone has seen to it beforehand that the mechanism works. The same applies in human relationships. Ulster is a tragic example of a complete absence of understanding at the time of emergency. The doctors from the drug centre at World's End in London's Chelsea told us of the boy whose parents gave him everything—except a willingness to try and share his thoughts and interests. He looked elsewhere for understanding—with tragic results. There are lots more such examples in homes, industry, everywhere.

Many young people are intolerant of an older generation which they consider responsible for most of the social problems and injustices in society, but they fail to understand the pressures and conditions under which their parents grew up: leaving school at 14, the need to get a job and contribute to the family budget, going to night school; then the war—and afterwards picking up and carrying on again.

In turn, older people are intolerant of youth, who don't conform and who don't accept

without question what they are told. Many more youngsters today go to college or university, to a different life, where groups of people are concerned with social problems, national and international, as they have been for generations. The thinking youngster, free of responsibility—other than his studies—and free of family influence, becomes aware of the wrongs of humanity, but returning home is met with 'We sent you there to study, not to get mixed up with demonstrators', when he is full of concern for the plights of the oppressed. Some attempt to understand his feelings and reactions would help—but the communication cord has failed.

Toc H has often proved that 17 and 70 can be the best of friends, once they learn to understand and appreciate each other; experience and wisdom mixed with youth and enthusiasm could achieve miracles—surely this is what Toc H is about. In our branches, groups, centres, Marks and projects, ordinary people are giving their time and effort for those in need, and are forming their own friendships; I thank God for it, but I find, and I suspect others do, that the Third Point of the Compass is most neglected. 'Mixture of Men' was never just a cliché, but an important truth about our Movement, now too often replaced by the easier 'Like-minded people'.

It is not dynamic leadership we need, just leaders at every level to emphasize those principles to which we are already committed but often ignore. There is no need for conferences to discover the purpose of Toc H in the 70s. It has always been there for all to see—promoting human relationships. What we have to do is make the words mean what they say.

### Personality Point



Judy Auton

Judy Auton joined the South Eastern Regional staff in April. Aged 23 she has been an infants' teacher for the past two and a half years. She led four Toc H projects last year, including one in Poperinge, and was a member of the South Eastern Region Projects Support Group. After a period of training (which will include three months in America as a Clayton Volunteer) she will be working primarily in the Oxford & Thames Valley Area.



# Fifty Years On

The first in a series of articles which will feature some of the branches which received their Lamps from the hands of the Prince of Wales in 1922.

## Coventry

'Secretary's report and correspondence,' announced Sam, our intrepid chairman. Alec carefully withdrew an evil smelling pipe from his face, knocked it out (his pipe, not his face) and sifted through a mountain of envelopes and dog-eared letters. Apart from Nobby's snores and Bert's mutterings we silently awaited Alec's contribution. 'We are 50 years old this year, chaps. HQ has just told us.'

'We must do something about it,' Sam suggested intelligently, and then lapsed into silence, implying that someone else should do something, not him.

Nobby, the father of the branch both in age and service, suggested that we contact the only living founder member, whom we have neglected for years. And so it was that Eric Jordan, a sprightly 70 plus bachelor, came back to tell us of the glory that was once Coventry branch.

It all began in 1921 when 'Tubby' travelled to Coventry to see Chris Drake, whom he had met in the Old House, and persuaded him to form a branch. We were awarded branch status in December 1922, our membership at that time being about 40. There was a good cross-section of the community, including strong representation from the professions, the church, factory workers, trade, civil servants, an MP, local government officials and probation officers. A strong, deep fellowship was enjoyed in the 20's and 30's, each member making his own contribution to this brotherhood, which truly scorned the distinction of class and influence. The MP for Coventry, Captain Strickland, so valued his membership of Toc H that he formed a group in the House of Commons.

A good percentage of the membership were bachelors, which ensured the smooth running of a variety of jobs, including the formation and staffing of the Coventry Boys' Club and annual summer camps for 'poor' boys, as well as concert parties and other fund raising efforts. With the outbreak of war in 1939 the branch set up a forces' canteen and attempted to provide for the comfort of homeless families. The majority of the membership were serving in the

forces and the Lamp which had burned so brightly was now almost extinguished. In 1940 the canteen was bombed. One member, searching in the rubble, found the Lamp and took it home, confident that Toc H would live again.

The branch flourished in the 40's, 50's and early 60's, but numbers have tended to decline latterly. The broad cross-section still exists. The service relies heavily on a few aged, married men, but the spirit of fellowship burns brightly. Current jobs include the packing of Christmas parcels; visiting the elderly, and doing gardening and decorating for them; organising an annual cross country run; arranging jumble sales; and organising an annual collection for the hospital League of Friends. The Association for the Deaf has been our host for some 27 years and we have close links with them. Last year, through the Council of Social Service, we were given the opportunity of mounting a shop window display for a week. Although it brought no new members it aroused great interest.

*Alec Judson*

## Sleaford, Lincs

In the 20's and 30's a Sleaford branch concert party raised funds for the county hospital. Members repaired wireless sets for the blind, with the aid of airmen from Cranwell and visited sick and lonely people in Sleaford. They helped at a camp for Borstal boys and raised money for the St Hugh's Boys' Home in Lincoln.

To younger members there must be something of a period flavour to Sleaford's 'boot and stocking fund'. This, as its name implies, provided boots and stockings for the poor and needy in the town. The money was raised by carol singing. Since the second world war the money has been used to provide tea and a concert for the elderly and a cinema show for children. More recently this, in turn, has been superseded by vouchers for groceries for older people and widows. In the period 1949-1971 over 1200 parcels or vouchers have been distributed.

For many years members repaired toys for a





One of the concert parties which were a feature of the life of Sleaford branch between the wars

nearby children's home. In addition they acted as uncles and aunts to the children, and took them out for tea.

For the past 15 years members have helped man the Toc H stockmen's tent at the Lincolnshire Show. For two nights tea, coffee and light refreshments are served at reasonable prices and the tent also provides a place to rest and, in recent years, to watch television. According to Percy Panting, to whom we are indebted for the information in this article, the branch is at a low ebb at present, and he adds: 'The women's branch is a strong one and the possibility of either a joint branch or the rejuvenation of the men's branch will have to be considered.' Many former members of the branch have attained high civic positions or played a leading part in work with other organisations. 'We like to feel,' says Percy, 'that the ideals of Toc H have helped them to do a better job in their present sphere of activity.'

### Middlesbrough

Ernest Minns, who with his wife had 'kept house' for Tubby and the other tutors at the Clergy Test School in the former Knutsford Gaol, came to Middlesbrough, when the school closed, to housekeep for a former tutor, the Rev F M Sykes ('Psycho'). The branch was assembled by Ernest using names on Tubby's lists salvaged from the Old House. The first members included Sid Ray, the army sergeant who had been in charge of Little Talbot House in Ypres. The second padre of the branch, Harold Hubbard, who had been administrative padre of the Movement, later became Bishop of Whitby. A later padre, Jonathan Graham, who accompanied Tubby on a visit to South Africa, subsequently became Superior of the Community of the Resurrection. Trevelyan Thompson MP was a founder member.

In the early years of the branch visits by members to a Poor Law children's hospital led to the appointment of a teacher (following years of fruitless campaigning by health and education authorities). Before the appointment a member taught a number of children to read and write – and he was a telephone linesman. This was the foundation of present day teaching of young patients in hospitals, an accepted part of the education service.

Before the days of blood banks, transfusions were given by our members, direct to the patient. Police called out donors as need arose. On the suggestion of the Actors' Church Union friendship and hospitality was offered to members of a touring company on their visits to the local theatre. One of the young actors was Edward Chapman, who had earlier been a resident at Mark II in London. He achieved fame as Jess Oakroyd in 'The Good Companions' and has recently been seen on TV in 'Champion House' and 'The Onedin Line'.

A member who sailed weekly to Hamburg started a branch there in 1929 – one of the war's casualties, alas.

Archbishop Temple preached at the service commemorating the 10th birthday of Toc H on Teesside and, later that year, ascended a rickety wooden staircase to be present at a branch meeting. An early agenda for a padre's meeting was drawn up on Gladstone's desk, the padre being a descendant of the great man. A District Conference held in 1926 was the fore-runner of all present District Teams. The decentralising of Toc H into Areas was first planned at a small meeting in Manchester, the north being represented by Central Councilors from Middlesbrough and Sheffield, with Peter Monie, honorary administrator, representing everyone else, adequately, as one would expect.

A number of erstwhile branches, now too small to be viable, have amalgamated with the parent branch to make a worthwhile unit.

Older members of the 'push bike' era believe that Toc H is now better than ever before. They particularly appreciate the updating of service which results in a generous use of members' cars; the distribution and maintenance of TV and radio sets for the elderly; and the efforts made to ensure happy holidays for young and old who would otherwise have none.

Middlesbrough's oldest member, now in his anecdotal age, salutes Toc H members everywhere, using the words of a postcard sent to him by Tubby in 1925 from a Canadian (Rocky Mountain?) railway train: 'Here's a handshake in both senses.'

*Tom Baker*



# The Hebrides is up

John Forbes, of the Western Regional staff, was seconded to assist Scottish secretary Ian Russell to assess the possibilities for the extension of Toc H in the rural communities of the Western Highlands. He writes here of his impressions of the island of Lewis.



Above: Peggy MacLeod's home at Garenin on the Isle of Lewis. Most of the 'black houses' are now used simply as barns or are allowed to crumble away. But a few, like this one, are still occupied despite their lack of windows and chimneys.

Right: New members of Toc H Callum and Chrissie Ann MacArthur seen outside their home in Carloway.

Below: The only folk museum on the island was created by a group of young people in this disused church at Shawbost. The museum includes a hand loom of the kind on which Harris Tweed is still woven.





'The hills is lonely' (writes Lillian Beckwith)--but that's not Lewis. Lewis is far from lonely, despite its desolate moorland surface, loch and bog-peat covered. This is because of the cheery warmheartedness of the Lewiswegians themselves--apparently doomed, but hardly defeated. The holiday maker may well be delighted by what he sees of the sea and the sands, the mountains and the sky, and by the varying light-and-colour changes in all around, but the sociologist would be all too often appalled, and the religious observer apt to despair.

The once notorious 'black houses', without window or chimney, are mostly either crumbling away or surviving as barns. But too many of these rough stone-built and sea-grass roofed homes are still occupied. In one such, from a distance barely distinguishable from the cliff face from which it appeared to be carved, living alone was elderly widow Peggy MacLeod, whom I visited in the black-house village of Garenin, close to Carloway on the west coast of Lewis. She had lived there 'all the days of her life', and the water supply had come in only last year when she was away in hospital. Peggy was still poorly after her operation, and that morning by 11 o'clock had not been able to wash or make her bed--just a cup of tea, and a pan of broth on the coal-fire hob for a bite of lunch. Coal dearly bought, because for three years now she had not had the strength to go out and cut peats, as her neighbours do.

The following evening, at our public meeting in Carloway School, 16 people turned up, and I made mention of Peggy MacLeod and perhaps others in similar need of neighbourly assistance. The headmaster was there, and I was glad when he told me that the WRVS Meals on Wheels, operating from Barvas (a central island road-junction community), had that very morning extended their service to the Carloway district, and that Peggy was among those now being visited.

At Shawbost (still on the west side) two years ago children converted a disused church beside their school into a folk museum. They also reconstructed and brought into full working order a water-mill of the type usually known as Norse; and they planted up the surrounds, and made a path from the main road to the mill and reconstructed a corn-drying kiln. The folk museum is the only museum on the island, and among many other fascinating items houses a working model of the nearby Norse mill. Fourteen year old Marion MacKenzie (no, that is not her name) showed me round, in the course of the tour explaining everything

in careful detail, in Gaelic and in English. She dwelt with some authority on the working of the Flattersley loom, a similar hand-machine to that on which her father weaves Harris Tweed. Like the thousand other weavers in Lewis he is self-employed to the extent that he receives his commissions and skeins of wool from the Mill, and after the bobbins are filled (work generally done by the children at home after school) weaves his tweed, which will take him one, or perhaps two, days. A 'tweed' is a length of approximately 320ft, which is returned to the Mill for washing and drying, and for which he is paid the sum of £11.00. In common with all weavers, he is lucky if he gets work for one tweed a week--usually it is one a fortnight. Marion has a sister and a brother both older than herself. Subsequently the headmaster confirmed what had become obvious to me, that the Marion MacKenzies of Lewis, far from ever having dreamed of going away on holiday, had never even had a treat in town--Stornoway, with its cinema, cafes and occasional concerts was, after all, 24 miles away.

Lionel Secondary School, which is situated within a mile or so of the Butt of Lewis, is the northernmost school in the Outer Hebrides. There, on the principle that Toc H builds bridges between people, and as a small attempt to encourage a sense of local pride in a community which lacks it, I was able to initiate a getting-to-know-you project for the 1st year classes. This, it is hoped, will link them with a different island school which I know, some seven or eight hundred miles from where they are.

After a morning's session in the classrooms of the Nicolson Institute (Lewis's fine comprehensive school in Stornoway) during which the slides-and-tape feature *Projects and People* were shown and discussed, three 16-17 year girls expressed a concern for further information. Later, in 'Martha', the company had grown to six students, and over hot chocolate and biscuits history was made by the setting up of the first Toc H group in the Highlands and Islands. So, after 50 years in Scotland, the Movement reaches at last as far as Stornoway; which just goes to show that, like the making of a good chocolate, a pearl, or a picture, the presentation of the Toc H image grows from the inside outwards!

They said it was a lovely winter for February. Indeed, to compensate for one night of 83 mph gales and another at -3°C (the coldest in Britain) there were no power cuts!



And the sheer joy of it all! Merely being on holiday wouldn't have been the same, when one thinks of making friends in Martha on South Beach in Stornoway (serving Toc H with tea and a chat) and visiting-enjoying the good humour and hospitality of country folk in their homes . . . sometimes even *we* could get a word in edgeways! After the first four weeks on Lewis itself I had clocked up two thousand miles, but driving on the island roads is a mixed blessing. There are many long, straight stretches, with the unexpected undulation to add a bit of spice to the proceedings! A little further interest is occasioned by cars not driving on the left-hand side of the road. Neither do they drive on the right. In fact, I assure you they drive straight down the middle, and the first to give way is a coward! Suddenly a black and white collie will spring out towards you as you pass his croft—one soon learns not to swerve, and the dogs miraculously always stop short of danger. It would seem this is their favourite pastime; indeed, one friendly old sheepdog living among the hills and lochs of Doune Carloway tears round and round for sheer joy at your approach. A few miles away an oddly-assorted couple, apparently going steady, are a young horse and a heifer, alike in size and colouring. They walk side by side, almost arm in arm (the only couple for miles) during the day and in the evening, eventually letting you pass if they want to.

The greatest joy of all, perhaps, was when our hosts told me they would like to join Toc H, and the pleasure it gives me now to ask you to extend a welcome to Malcolm (Callum) MacArthur and his charming wife Christina (Chrissie Ann) of Carloway, a couple who are tailor-made for Toc H, with whom we shared the finest fellowship and who are quick to lend their concern and ready assistance at every turn. Chrissie and Callum, with their ample and well-sited holiday accommodation in furnished home or a choice of caravans (advertised in *Point Three*) are looking forward to meeting other members of the Family who will now want to visit them. They will, no doubt, recount in their beautiful soft-spoken lilt their time of stress when the Scottish secretary and his assistant descended on them unexpectedly out of season, and proceeded to turn their lives upside down! A fitting probationary period for the first two Hebridean members, which they passed with flying colours!

Being selected to work with Ian Russell was for me a pleasure and a great privilege. Never again shall I feel inclined to say 'up in the Midlands' or 'up Yorkshire'—or even 'up in Bonny Scotland'. How can I? For me, only the Hebrides is up.

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**URGENTLY REQUIRED** for Toc H residential hostel, Southampton, warden (single man aged about 35) and housekeeper/assistant warden, man or woman. Scope for community service against Christian background. Apply Chairman, Mr Geoffrey Savill, 24 Kellett Road, Southampton 75701.

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## Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during April:

7-Pocklington (York) (j), Wiggenhall St Germans (j).

6-Bridlington (j).

4-Grays (w), Harefield (j), Scottish Area (j).

3-Abertillery (j), Morecambe (m), Penrith (w), St Johns (Tunbridge Wells) (w).

2-Bourne End (j), Denbigh (j), East Sheppey (w), Hunstanton (w), Jedburgh (m), Kids Grove (w), Mold (w), Ramsgate (w).

1-Accrington (j), Alvechurch (m), Barkingside (m), Barrow-on-Humber (j), Blackburn (m), Bletchley (m), Bognor Regis (w), Bury St Edmunds (j), Calstock (m), Cardiff (w), Carlisle (w), Central (j), Clitheroe (m), Coupar Angus (w), Crewe & Nantwich (w), Eltham (w), Gloucester (j), Hayling Island (m), Ickenham & Uxbridge (w), Kennington (London) (m), Llandudno Central (w), Loddon (w), Manchester Central (m), Melton Mowbray (m), Milborne Port (m), Milton & Eastney (m), Newport (Mon) (m), Oldham (w), Paignton (m), Palmers Green (w), Pembury (m), Redcar (w), Seven Kings (m), Shirehampton (w), Stony Stratford & Wolverton (w), Uckfield (m), Uxbridge (m), Welling (w), Wem (j), Westwood (m), Winchester (j), Wolverton (m), Wroughton (m), Wroughton (w).

We extend a warm welcome to the 104 new members.



# NEWSPOINT

## East Midlands: *the lively area*

Reports of branch and District activities presented to a recent Area meeting in the East Midlands show that Toc H is very much alive in the Area.

Loughborough branch opens its room every Saturday morning and looks after mentally handicapped children while their parents go shopping. One member, Tommy Hawkin, has become so involved that he has done a special week's training course and has now been put in charge of the project.

Leicester branch has one member who is a Sikh and is now assisting members of the Sikh community to develop social work in the city.

Anstey branch started a youth club some years ago, which now has its own premises. Three years ago the branch launched a 'drop in' club for the elderly. This became so popular that it now has its own building, open every day of the week. Now the branch has decided that it too should have its own premises. Already £1,500 has been given towards the estimated cost of £8,000 and so many people have offered to help that the branch is confident of raising the full amount within two years.

A gift shop organised by Ashby de la Zouch branch has raised £400 towards the cost of setting up a new Cheshire Home in the neighbourhood.

Several members of Melton Mowbray branch are keen on painting and, with a few friends, have started a weekly painting class.

And, in addition to this wide-ranging activity at branch level, there will be six projects for young people in the Area this summer, compared with two last year.

### SQUARE ONE

Nothing but the highest will win the best. The strongest force in the world is not numbers, not organisation, but the power of the idea.

Hubert Secretan

Toc H Journal November 1930

The presentation by Bala branch in Merionethshire of an electro-cardiograph machine for the use of local doctors. The machine cost £1,200. On the same evening the branch presented the local Council with a seat which is to be placed near a block of old people's flats.

Photo: Eifion Evans



## The Bothy is next project for Dor Knap Friends

'Plans are now in hand to go ahead with the Bothy project,' says the annual report of the Friends of Dor Knap. This major reconstruction job will include the installation of a covered in staircase and the provision of showers and toilets in the old stable beneath the Bothy.

According to the report the Friends of Dor Knap have given over £1,300 to the house since the scheme started six years ago. Gifts include the central heating, a deep freeze, a vacuum cleaner and polisher, a potato peeler, a motor mower and a record player as well as the materials required for the building projects. The report pays

well merited tribute to the members and friends who have carried out the specialised building work. Without their time and skill the cost of projects such as the construction of the new washing-up room 'would have been nearly double'.

The Friends have recently established a 'bed fund'. The idea, which originated with members in Peterborough District, is that visitors to Dor Knap may, if they wish, contribute to the fund each time they stay at the house. The money will be kept in a separate fund and used to replace the beds, one room at a time.



## North London's new young group

A fortnightly social club for the elderly is the first project launched by a lively new Toc H group in Highbury, North London. The club meets in a Roman Catholic church hall, which has been loaned free of charge. The group hopes that the Social Services Department may be prepared to help with transport. Meanwhile a local youth club has loaned a vehicle to get the old people to and from the club.

The group also has the use of the church hall for its own meetings. In addition to discussion evenings the group has arranged visits to the theatre and to a Chinese restaurant. And members have

also spent a weekend at Mark 5, Southampton, where they had the opportunity of sharing experiences with the Marksmen as well as visiting the hospital broadcasting studios in the Mark's grounds and the Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Club.

Among the members of the group are three former residents of Mark 7 in London's Fitzroy Square, who moved into a flat in Highbury last September. One of the three, Bob Mills, has just been appointed to the Toc H staff as warden of the Croydon Centre. Greta Penness, international secretary at headquarters, is also a member of the group.

## Village community for the mentally handicapped £100,000 appeal launched

Several Toc H members in Colchester, Essex, are taking a leading part in Acorn Villages Ltd, a local charitable trust which has ambitious plans for raising £100,000 to establish a village community for mentally handicapped people.

The village will offer the mentally handicapped a permanent home in a pleasant environment, with a normal social life and the kind of security that a family atmosphere can provide. There will be sheltered workshops in which residents will be encouraged to develop their various skills and taught to assemble or manufacture products which will provide an income for

themselves and the village. The ultimate aim is to make the village self-supporting.

'In other words,' says Harold Burgess, one of the Toc H members involved in the project, 'we want to create for our villagers the conditions of a normal life, not shut away from the rest of the world. We want to give them a place in the community. They should not lose the dignity of being treated as human beings. They deserve the opportunity to prove that they can make a contribution to society.'

The trust hopes to raise sufficient money to start the village within three years.

## Film scheme comes of age

The Toc H sponsored cinema scheme for the housebound in Paisley, Renfrewshire, celebrates its 21st birthday this year. The scheme, which was itself launched to mark the coming of age of Paisley branch, was conceived by David Mackay, who is now Paisley's Assistant Director of Social Services. Originally 8mm silent films were shown but now the branch has a 16mm sound projector and gives 36 shows each

winter, in hospitals and old people's homes as well as in the homes of housebound people. In addition the branch arranges a number of parties and outings. The scheme attracts generous financial support from the local authority and from firms and individuals in the town. A great many friends of the branch are involved in the operation of the projector and in providing entertainment and transport for the parties.

## Getting going in the Hebrides

One Toc H youth group has already started work and two branches are in course of formation as a result of the six week survey on the Isle of Lewis, according to the report submitted to the Central Executive by Scottish secretary Ian Russell.

'As in every community,' says Ian, 'there is a certain reluctance by individuals to make the first move but a great willingness to support and join the Movement once it gets off the ground. Our task therefore was to find someone with the energy and the inclination to lead a new group. This we found in the persons of Mr and Mrs Bobby Walker in Stornoway and Mr and Mrs Malcolm McArthur in the village of Carloway, and we feel quite confident that adult groups will come into existence in both these places, which should provide the necessary growth points.'

The youth group is in the Nicholson Institute, the island's only senior secondary school. Another three groups, all based on youth clubs, may well come into being soon.

The island's economy is almost wholly dependent on the Harris Tweed industry and in recent months the industry has been in decline. As a result many families are able to earn no more than £6 a week. Ian and his colleague John Forbes were able to act as a channel of communication between the local people and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, and a plan has been drawn up to establish a small, co-operatively owned factory to produce textiles from man-made fibres. This could prove the most important development from this six week survey.

## WOSSAT YOU SAID

A young Egyptian, staying at Mark 20, was interested in the Tutankhamun exhibition. He asked a bus conductor for directions and was put off the bus at Tooting Common.



## Children's holiday hostesses needed

Last year 6,547 children in special need because of difficult home circumstances were given holidays in private homes in the country or by the sea. 'But,' says the WRVS, organisers of the scheme, 'there are many more children who would benefit from a holiday if we can find more hostesses.'

Some of the families are always in difficulties. In other cases the difficulty is temporary, due, perhaps, to the illness of the mother. The family is visited by the WRVS before the holiday and every effort is made to give the hostess an accurate account of the child she is accepting. WRVS makes travel arrangements and also ensures that the child has sufficient and suitable clothing. The children are aged from 5 to 15. A payment of £1.50 per week towards the child's keep can be made if required.

If you can help, the address to contact is: WRVS headquarters, 17 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 4AJ.

## Area member's work for the blind

Lincolnshire Area member Joe Atkin and his wife Vera, a Toc H Associate, are active supporters of their local blind society. Among recent fund raising activities arranged by Joe and Vera are a raffle which raised £75, a collection in local pubs, and a coffee evening in support of an appeal by cub scouts for funds for a guide dog. This raised £37.50. In addition Joe and Vera presented each blind resident at a local old people's home with a basket of fruit and a box of handkerchiefs last Christmas, paid for by small whist drives held in their home. This is just one example of what can be done by our sometimes maligned Area members.

Vera (right) and Joe Atkin watch Mrs Jane Frith, aged 95, make the draw for the raffle which they organised for the blind society.

Photo: David Lee

## Visitor speaks of Leprosy

Chris Gent

Tubby had a visit in April from Philip Barnes of British Petroleum. Philip's brother Geoffrey is well-known as an active member of Rochdale branch. And Philip himself has not long returned from a trip to Nigeria, where he took time to visit the Leper Colony at Abeokuta, in Southern Nigeria.

His comments on leprosy in the South are of great interest. The general problems are the same as elsewhere - lack of funds, lack of doctors, difficulty in bringing patients to the well-established medical centres. But the problems are augmented in the South because of the attitude of the Nigerian Government and of the various humanitarian aid societies. In the South, leprosy is a perennial disease; always in existence, but never in the catastrophic proportions that it has attained in the North; nor can it ever draw the attention that flood, earth-quake or epidemics attract. Therefore sufficient support for the care of lepers in the South is never forthcoming.

It's rather like alcoholism, which has been going on steadily for years as a real social and physical disease, but never catching society's attention - because it is always there, and always has been, and always will be.

## BRITISH FARE PLAY

The Royal Corps of Transport, stationed in Berlin, has announced that the bus service for British troops will be extended to include the Berlin club of Toc H. A similar service will be laid on in the reverse direction also. Peter East, formerly Deputy Commissioner for Toc H Clubs, said 'That is really good. We have been trying for a long time to get this laid on. It will make a big difference to the club.'





## Day centre for the elderly

A donation of £500 from a charitable trust has made it possible for work to start on the construction of a day centre for the elderly in Salcombe, Devon. Martha Field, one of the four members of the women's branch who sit on the committee of this project and the chairman of the town's over 60's club, says there is a real need for a day centre because 'there is nowhere in Salcombe without steps where the elderly can meet freely and easily'.

The centre will be on the sea front and will have a well designed kitchen, a large room where the elderly can meet and a balcony where they can sit and enjoy the sunshine.

## Expansion campaign

Wembley joint branch and members from neighbouring branches are undertaking a door knocking campaign this month in an effort to build up the strength of the branch, the only one now in the London Borough of Brent. The climax of the campaign will be a public meeting at which the main speaker will be the General Secretary, Gilbert Francis. The branch points out that 'London alone needs 10 million hours a week of voluntary service and as our social services become increasingly comprehensive more, rather than fewer, needs are likely to be unearthed by the services themselves'.

## Bookmarks spread the word

The women's branch in Netherton, Worcs, has distributed 500 very attractively produced bookmarks free to local libraries. On one side there is the symbol and the slogan 'Toc H gets things done'. On the other a local address and telephone number and the words 'Care, compassion, concern for your neighbour, fellow workers, and all mankind. Leading to practical help and action. This is Toc H.'

# In brief...

● The Very Rev Dr R Selby Wright, a founder member of Edinburgh branch, is the new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

● Mrs Bullen, an 88 year old member of Peterborough women's branch, has raised nearly £30 for the branch during the past year by knitting. The items which she has made and sold include 58 woolly dogs, 36 tea cosies, 14 humpty dumpties and a rabbit.

● Prolonged enquiries have revealed that the former 'Toc H Lane at Cefn Coed near Merthyr has been renamed Cilsanws Lane.

● Market Rasen branch in Lincolnshire has sent its 2,650th pair of spectacles to the Missionary Optical Services collection. The spectacles are forwarded to patients in leper colonies.

● And in Norfolk North Walsham branch, which also collects spectacles, has received a parcel from an anonymous reader of *Point Three* in New Zealand.

● The latest effort of the Toc H youth group in Washington, County Durham, as part of their campaign to raise funds for a holiday for handicapped people at Alison House, is a disco, which raised £33.

● The opening of a specially designed home for 30 old people in Dundee, South Africa, is the climax of nearly 10 years work by the women's branch there. Every church, club and other organisation in the town has helped to raise the money for the building, which is situated near the town centre.

● Bognor Regis, Sussex, members Hubert and Enid Cozens and Mr and Mrs Bert Garrett of Penarth, Glamorgan, celebrated their Golden Weddings in April.

● Clitheroe, Lancs, branch distributed special Easter teas to 57 housebound people. 16 different items were included in each hamper and the whole operation was carried out, we are told, 'with fine precision'.

● Down in the South East Hampshire District the Portsmouth Lunch Club has held the first of a planned series of family evenings. A three course dinner and a talk by a former chaplain to the naval barracks were enjoyed by 50 guests.

● Members of Paignton, Devon, branch recently enjoyed listening to a tape sent to them by branch member Clive Pearson, who is doing a year's tour of duty on the island of Gan in the Indian Ocean.

● The chairman of the local Council was one of the 120 guests at the Penarth, Glamorgan, branch 21st birthday celebrations.

● Three Northampton members have joined the committee of the local association for the blind in order to strengthen still further the links between the two organisations.

● And the Northampton District has announced that its annual quiz competition has been won this year by Rushden (m). Higham Ferrers (m) were runners-up.



# PICTUREPOINT



Left: Wynyard branch in Tasmania has launched a flashing light emergency scheme which seems to have caught the imagination of the public. T A Jones (left), who is in charge of the project, is seen fitting a light at an old people's home.

Photo: The Mercury, Hobart



Right: Multiple sclerosis victim Joe Cuthbert has had a lifelong interest in swimming. Using the telephone by his bedside he has organised three sponsored swims in recent months (in Billingham, Thornaby and Middlesbrough, to raise money for Toc H and for the mentally handicapped.

Photo: Middlesbrough Evening Gazette

Right: These boys, all aged between 13 and 16, chopped 250 bags of wood for the old and handicapped during the three weeks of the power cuts earlier in the year. The scheme was organised by the Ryton, Co Durham, branch. Also seen in this picture are Mr Charlton, Clerk to the Urban District Council (left) and branch secretary George Hindmarsh.

Below: The Rev John Elkerton, vicar of Buckingham and a Toc H Builder, enjoys a game of 'Pass the Bowler' at a recent Buckingham branch social. There were 120 guests at the evening.

Photo: Buckingham Advertiser







## Faces in the Regions: Western Region

Huw Gibbs

### The challenge of commitment

If your knowledge of the west country is anything like mine it will be limited to pleasant memories of balmy summerdays and warm sand underfoot contrasted with grim faced rock and a wild sea. It is a region of contrasts not the least of which is reflected in this account of the Toc H work there by Regional leader, Keith Beck.



Above left:

Harry Olver

Above: Harry Buckle

Left: John Forbes

Rev Crispin White

Wilf Youngs

Above: Rickie Lowe

Above right:

Keith Beck

Right: Elizabeth Bacon

The popular image of cream and cider, holidays and legions of retired people, while true is not the whole picture by any means. The Region includes Bristol with its commercial and industrial life, the booming industrial area of Swindon, the rapidly expanding conurbations of the Solent area and the whole of South Wales with its legacy of coal mining and pit closures.

Toc H operates within this region in many ways. In addition to traditional branches, many of them thriving, there are Marks in Swindon and Southampton and, in the latter city, the unique work of the Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Club. New opportunities for work in urban areas at Bristol and Portsmouth are revealing new possibilities of commitment and growth, while projects are playing an increasing part in creating new ventures in service and extension.

Travelling has always been difficult, and the established policy of railway closure and withdrawal of bus services brings a fresh set of problems for many members. But there is also a growing sense of belonging to one Region, despite the awkward existence of the Bristol Channel! Much of the credit for this belongs

to the staff, whose varying gifts and talents are being used in wider spheres than the limits of their immediate neighbourhood. We see our task as the renewal of purpose, the recapturing of a wide vision of the work of the Kingdom and the challenge to new and deeper commitment to that Kingdom.

Keith Beck shamelessly admits to being a James Bond fan. But there is more to him than that. He was born in Torquay and went to the local grammar school. After leaving school he worked with the Great Western Railway in the good old days of accurate time tables and a full complement of drivers!

Keith decided to enter the Methodist ministry and graduated from Didsbury College, Bristol. Later he was to be awarded a MA degree from Bristol University for a thesis on church history. His probationary ministry was served at Nantwich and Colchester and after ordination he moved to Bath, Sparkhill, near Birmingham, and Fleet in Hants. At Birmingham he was deeply involved with the immigrant community and was associated with the formation of the now famous Sparkbrook Association. Keith retains a keen interest in editorial matters and is a



member of the board of an independent Methodist quarterly called *New Directions*. He is also a member of a group responsible for liturgical revision in the Methodist church.

His first contact with Toc H was at Willaston, Cheshire, in 1951. And while in Birmingham he was padre to Mark 6. At one time he was also padre to Hartley Wintney branch and North Hants District. He joined the staff in 1966.

Keith is married with four children, three boys and a girl, and lives at Taunton. He is a keen gardener and a fellow of the National Chrysanthemum Society. His other interests are railways, birdwatching, classical music and reading—mainly English history but never completely forgetting Ian Fleming.

Wilf Youngs joined Toc H in 1927 at Middlesbrough when he was 17. Served as Tees-side District Secretary for 3 years. He worked in the Chief Engineer's Dept at ICI Billingham for 23 years and in 1939 moved to Kendal and became Social Secretary to Kendal branch. Wilf moved back to Middlesbrough in 1941 and was asked to take over the job of District Secretary again. After joining the local ENSA he formed the Toc H Concert Party giving concerts every Sunday night in the Toc H Services' Hostel and at various gun sites and camps in the Area. About 250 concerts altogether. In 1951 he was appointed hon warden of Mark 18, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and also became secretary of Tyneside District. Appointed HAC for Northern Area until 1962. Joined Toc H BAOR staff in August 1962 and served as warden in all of the four Clubs. In 1968 he became Deputy Warden, Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Club, Southampton and also hon secretary to the Southern Area.

Elizabeth Bacon was appointed to the staff at the beginning of 1967, and worked for some time for the Women's Association in the Western Area. When integration was fairly well established she took over the responsibility for both sides of the Movement in the Southern Area and now concentrates in that part of the Region, based on her home at Broadstone in Dorset.

Born in London, Elizabeth was educated at King's Warren County Secondary School in Plumstead, and spent some years on the secretarial side of commerce, and in schools, before joining Toc H full-time. Her keen interest in people as individuals greatly adds to her enjoyment of the job she is now doing although, as she frankly admits, 'being on the Toc H staff does have its "off-moments", and one is

all the time only too well aware of one's inadequacies'.

She loves to travel, and spent two years working in Switzerland besides having made a number of very interesting holiday visits to the Continent and further afield. Her many other hobbies include music, walking, reading, and by no means least the quiet enjoyment of her home and garden.

**Harry Buckle** was born in 1921—which he claims makes him a young 50 despite greying temples! A Yorkshireman, who left his native county to join the Forces in June 1940, he served with the KOYLI for two years before transferring to the Armoured Corps. He saw active service in North Africa and Italy. Harry became a regular soldier after the war and served all of 22 years. He was introduced to Toc H through Service Canteens and was immediately struck by the friendly, helpful staff. This prompted him to find out more about the Movement and he became a member in 1962 with Worksop (Notts) branch.

After a short spell on the Toc H staff in Germany 1962-3 he left for Australia and New Zealand for a working holiday which lasted just over two years. During this tour Harry made contact with Toc H in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Wellington. He returned to the UK in early 1965 and rejoined Toc H staff in February 1966, first as Deputy Warden and then Warden of Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Club, Southampton. He serves on the Port Welfare Committee and is a member of King George's Fund for Sailors (Southampton Committee) as well as being a voluntary visitor for Pensioners' Welfare. What spare time he has left is devoted to travel, people and ciné photography.

There have been some staff changes in the Western Region during the past 12 months and these appointments have been reported individually. But for the record they are:

**John Forbes** living at Bath and writing in this issue about his secondment to Scotland for the Highland survey.

**Rickie Lowe** helping to strengthen projects from his base in Bristol.

**The Rev Crispin White** living at Gosport with special interest in urban development in the Portsmouth area.

**Harry Oliver** is the father of the team. A member since 1938 he has that unflappable countenance of a true countryman. He lives at Taunton.



# Obituary

## Stan Berwick



Stanley Berwick died on April 13 after a brief illness. He became a member of Sevenoaks branch in 1923 and was Honorary Treasurer of Toc H from 1954 to 1968.

Tubby would call him 'Mr Greatheart', for Stanley never withheld help from anyone who needed him and, despite his involvement in his own considerable building firm, found time and space to nurture a whole series of causes and good works; for many years he served as a Councillor in local government, in education, in the hospital service, church work, and a football club. He founded a home for unmarried mothers in Sevenoaks, and was a member of many organisations. He was living proof that it is always the busiest man who can find time to do the extra job.

Some men are 'naturals' at sport or teaching; Stan was a 'natural' at friendship. His friendship was never passive; he helped others to make the best of their lives. His friendship was 'for real'; once given it endured. Lots of bewildered people in Sevenoaks and elsewhere found him a rock in times of trouble.

He would have laughed a great belly laugh if anyone had dignified his acts of friendship as 'Toc H service'. They were the natural expression of his generous spirit and he would be the first to confess that he found deep personal satisfaction in being of some use to others. As Hon Treasurer of Toc H Stan followed and developed the great tradition in which his predecessors William Hurst and Donald Colgrain

had served. Whereas most Hon Treasurers have the curious notion that their job is to sit tight on the money bags like a lot of broody old hens, Hurst and Colgrain had so learned their Toc H that they saw their duty lay in making the best use of available resources for the furtherance of Toc H. Stan took this a stage further; no policy agreed by the Central Executive, no action required by them, should ever be held up for lack of immediate funds; 'available resources' to Stanley meant not only cash in the kitty, but that unaccountable store of generous support which flows from men and women of goodwill when Toc H, seen to be true to its Master, is in need of help. It was a source of satisfaction to him that the finance committee, under his chairmanship, never failed the Executive when money had to be found.

Even so he never threw his weight about, considerable though it was; nor ever prevented his more cautious colleagues from having their say and being seriously considered. His influence lay in a fact which would have surprised him had he known it; his colleagues learned to trust him and respond to his leadership because, without ever putting it into words, they found in him 'Mr Valiant-for-Truth'.

Stan was a man among men; he remained to the end humble and very human; he felt the sorrows of the world as keenly as he felt its joys. He prayed every day. His favourite prayer might well have been 'Lord, let me not live to be useless'. If so, it was answered every day of his life, and finally on the day he was taken from us.

**Jack Harrison**

**We regret to announce the death of the following members:**

**In November:** Alfred Mathers (Cheadle Hulme).

**In January:** Dr T B Heaton (Oxford & Thames Valley Area).

**In February:** T Trevor Bramall (Weston-super-Mare & Uphill), Daisy A Pettitt (Leigh-on-Sea).

**In March:** Sylvia B Adkins (Netherton & South Crosland), Constance M Hogg (Redcar), John W Rigby (Edmonton), Gladys L Savagar (Leominster), Byrt Sealey (Cheadle Hulme), Alfred J Stears, Snr (Wallasey).

**In April:** The Rev F Brian Aikin-Sneath (Hartley Wintney), Charles F Austin (West London Area), Philip Burton (Sleaford), Eileen Davies (Staunton Harold), Hilda Nelson (Hunmanby), Albert H Nicholls (West Midlands Area), Dr Thomas L Scott (Sussex Area), Albert E Shead (Ashford), Horace Smith (Cheadle Hulme), H Nelson Sturt (Canterbury), Leonard Tigwell (Hartley Wintney).

**We give thanks for their lives.**



## Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three Magazine*, Toc H, 41 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DJ. Telephone 01-709 0472.



**BRUGES, BELGIUM.** Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in friendly atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, Belgium.

**RAISE FUNDS QUICKLY, EASILY.** Superb ball-pens, combs, brushes etc, gold-stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford 2.

**GUERNSEY C I** Good homely fare in Toc H family. H & C in all rooms. Midweek bookings accepted. Terms BB & E M £10.50 per week. Mrs P Saunders, Petherton, Tertre Lane, Vale. Tel: 0481 44756.



**HOTEL LYBEER** has been a centre for Toc H members since 1945. Charles, a Toc H Builder and well known to many members, welcomes parties and individuals. Charles Vanhove, Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.

**BIG IMPROVEMENTS AT WARDEN MANOR** including H and C in most twin bedded/double rooms; new tennis court. Vacancies July 8-29, Aug 5-Sept 2, Sept 9-16. Cost only £9.75 to £11.75 weekly, full board (4 meals daily); children £7.50. Host/leader John Cole. Historic Manor House set amidst lovely countryside overlooking sea. Happy Toc H fellowship. Entertainments and games (tennis, putting, etc) free. Bathing at Warden Bay nearby. Garage. Bus direct to Manor.

Newly installed central heating and a dedicated staff enable Warden Manor to welcome Toc H conferences and branch weekends in spring, autumn, and winter. Book now. Write or phone Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent. Tel: Eastchurch 238.

**DEVON-NATIONAL PARK.** Four-berth caravan from £6.30. (Booked July 15-29). see Oldnall, 23 Cedar Road, Bournville B30 1UT.

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE.** Bed & breakfast. H & C. Parking. Near A370. Moderate terms. Member. Bernard Green, 'Mon Abri', Ebdon Road, Worle. Tel: 21957.

**VENTNOR I W.** Bed & breakfast. H & C. 13 Ocean View Road. Telephone 853599. Toc H member.

**SANDY BAY, EXMOUTH, DEVON.** Caravans to let, 4 and 6 berth; vacancies July-September. Terms on application. Discombe, 77 High Street, Crediton. Tel: Crediton 2994.

**CAMPING 1972.** Are you looking over your equipment? East End Children's Camping Association would be grateful to receive your surplus equipment. Please send or write to Highway Club, Dellow Street, London E1.

## Raise Funds

Effective, easy, profitable fund raising.

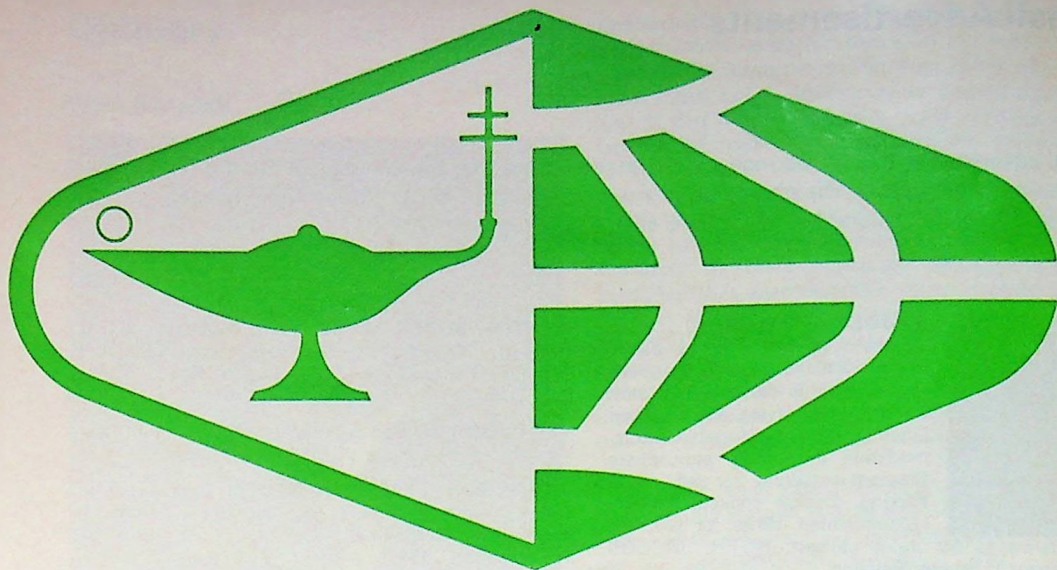
Miller provide a fund raising service from which many Clubs, Churches, Charities and other Social organisations are making valuable extra income.

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Full details from:

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Queensbridge Works,  
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# TOC H

## **This is a stick-up**

Many branches ask for paper symbol stickers to use on noticeboards, displays, posters and to identify helpers at fetes etc.

### **These are now available**

SIZE: 3½in x 3in 10 for 30p

6½in x 5in 6 for 30p

Printed orange on white, ideal for all those local events where identification is needed.

### **Holiday luggage labels**

A new supply of luggage labels is available. Brightly coloured with Toc H symbol and space for address.

Ten labels for 10p